

Virginia Emergency Operations Center  
Tropical Storm Ophelia  
Situation Report #2

Operational Period 0700 Hours September 12, 2005 to 0700 Hours September 13, 2005

**SITUATION:**

Tropical Storm Ophelia is projected to impact the Commonwealth beginning early Wednesday morning and ending as late as Thursday morning with tropical force winds and significant rainfall.

Governor Mark R. Warner declared a State of Emergency within the Commonwealth on September 12, 2005, directing the Virginia Emergency Operations Center to coordinate preparedness efforts in anticipation of Ophelia. This declaration allows state agencies to take actions specific to Ophelia.

**WEATHER:**

Tropical Storm Ophelia may affect coastal sections of the Mid-Atlantic region late Wednesday into Thursday.

Tropical Storm Ophelia is nearly stationary off the South Carolina coast as of 5 am this morning. It will begin to move slowly on a northerly track today. The storm will gradually pick up speed tonight and make landfall somewhere along the southeast North Carolina coast late Wednesday. Ophelia is then expected to turn northeast Wednesday night, and then accelerate off the northern Outer Banks on Thursday.

Coastal sections of the Mid-Atlantic region will begin to feel the effects of Ophelia late Wednesday afternoon or early Wednesday evening as winds and the possibility of precipitation increase. The main brunt of the storm is expected Wednesday night and Thursday. When heavy downpours and sustained tropical storm force winds may overspread coastal areas. The strong onshore winds will cause high surf and possible coastal flooding during times of high tide.

There continues to be some uncertainty with regard to the exact track and strength of Ophelia as the storm passes through the Mid-Atlantic region later this week. Details of associated wind strength, rainfall amounts, and storm surge will become more apparent in the next day or so. All interests in the Commonwealth should pay close attention to the latest National Hurricane Center advisories on Ophelia.

**VIRGINIA EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER STATUS:**

The VEOC went to Hurricane Readiness Condition 2 as of 1300 hours on September 12<sup>th</sup>.

**ONGOING STATE ACTIVITIES:**

- **Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM/VEOC)**
  - Monitoring the forecast of Tropical Storm Ophelia.
  - Staffing EOC and coordinating VERT response.
  - Monitoring North Carolina response activities.
  - Assessing availability of resources.

- Communications with localities, state agencies, and other crucial response organizations emphasizing preparatory actions.
- State SAR assets were put on alert as of September 11<sup>th</sup> at 1315 hours. SAR teams in Region 5 will report their status after the storm passes. SAR teams in Region 1 are offering fallback sheltering options for those Region 5 members who may choose to evacuate.
- PIO has handled three phone calls pertaining to Tropical Storm Ophelia.
- Daily conference call with US Coast Guard.
- **Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)**
  - Reviewing hurricane preparedness checklists with emphasis on the Hampton Roads area.
- **Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (VDCR)**
  - Will begin evacuating eastern facilities.
- **Virginia Department of Corrections (VDOC)**
  - Monitoring Tropical Storm Ophelia. No evacuation of facilities anticipated.
- **Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF)**
  - Despite deployment and other in-state response activities (Dismal Swamp Fire), the use of part-time personnel to augment the staff has meant that resources are deemed adequate to continue Hurricane Katrina response, fire suppression activity, and Tropical Storm Ophelia response if necessary.
  - Commodity staging areas are being established for quick response to projected impact areas.
  - 20-person chainsaw/labor crew deployed to Marietta, GA to the FEMA Mobilization Center. If they are not needed for Tropical Storm Ophelia recovery they will be deployed to assist with Hurricane Katrina.
- **Virginia Department of Health (VDH)**
  - Staff alerted and on stand-by.
- **Virginia National Guard (VNG)**
  - The Task Force Norfolk Engineering Unit will be deploying up to 125 guardsmen tomorrow to the Norfolk Armory and the Onancock Armory to provide assistance with evacuation and debris clearing.
- **Virginia State Corporation Commission**
  - Monitoring readiness of electric co-op providers (including: Mecklenburg Electric, Southside Electric, and Community Electric.)

#### **CONTIGUOUS STATE'S ACTIONS:**

- **NC Situation:** NC EOC – NC Governor declared a State of Emergency. State EOC in Raleigh continuing 24-hour operations.

#### **LOCAL ACTIONS:**

- Monitoring Tropical Storm Ophelia.

- Initiating public awareness messages.
- Local Emergency has been declared by James City County.

**OTHER ACTIVITIES:**

- Emergency Response Team – Advance (ERT-A) from FEMA Region 3 is in place.

**PROJECTED FUTURE ACTIONS:**

- Continue to develop Public Affairs Strategy for addressing expectations for response and recovery as part of a preparatory message.
- Complete augmentation of VEOC and expansion within Virginia State Police Academy.
- Re-check Stand-by Emergency Contracts and Mutual Aid Agreements for implementation.
- Revise Incident Action Plan (IAP).

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